

SAN JUAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1557 GREENE ST. P.O. BOX 178 SILVERTON, CO 81433
(970)387-5531 FAX: (970)387-0251
E-MAIL: SJCSHERIFF@FRONTIER.NET



San Juan County COVID-19 Response FAQ

I. I don't live in Silverton, but I own a home there. Can I travel to my home/property?

- We have no interest in preventing anyone from accessing their properties, or having necessary work done, or gas delivered, or internet repaired, ect... We would discourage you from coming and going to your property and increasing the chances of spreading illness. We would also prohibit you from lending your San Juan County property as a shelter to others. If it is not you using your property, it should not be being used. We also ask that you limit your time in public places as much as possible for two weeks if you have come from another are, or if you are coming and going.

II. Is Highway 550 closed?

- Absolutely not. HWY 550 is a crucial supply route for the entire region. What is prohibited is winter recreation on the passes in order to minimize the potential need for emergence response.

III. I live in Silverton, but my license plates are from somewhere else. Can I have my vehicle in town?.

- Yes, we are mostly using license plates as identifiers on the pass, where we are restricting recreation in the backcountry. We tend to know what vehicles live in town, and will investigate should we have concerns rather than simply towing an unknown vehicle.

IV. By what authority are you enacting these prohibitions?

- San Juan County has declared a State of Emergency in light of the COVID-19 Crisis. Unnecessary travel is prohibited under Colorado Revised Statutes 25-1-114(1) stating is unlawful for any person, association, or corporation, and the officers thereof: (a) To willfully violate, disobey, or disregard the provisions of a public health laws or terms of any lawful notice, order, standard, rule, or regulation issued pursuant thereto (San Juan County Public Health Order 2020-02)

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V. As a San Juan County resident, can I participate in outdoor recreation?

- It is highly encouraged in these stressful times. Small groups and safe practices ensure this remains a beneficial activity. What is prohibited, are people traveling to San Juan County to recreate as we need to minimize the potential for emergency response needs. Locals are also encouraged to take less risks than usual for the same reason.

VI. Do lodging establishments and weekly rentals have to ask our guests to leave?

- Currently staying guests are welcome to complete their stay. However, no new guests are to be accommodated.

VII. As a Silverton Resident, can I go out of town to doctor's appointments or to get supplies or medications I can't get here?

- Yes. Necessary trips out of town are in no way prohibited. We would ask that you attempt to use group purchasing methods, and to not visit other communities for unnecessary reasons.

VIII. What's with this "Locals Only," policy?

- Poor choice of wording. I will take the grief for that mistake, but I make no apologies for our attempts to what is best for our community.
We do not wish to prevent our citizens from getting outside for exercise and good mental health practices. We ask that you change your typical risk management protocols to consider the goals of minimizing the potential for emergency response. There are plenty of exercise opportunities right here in the valley, without having to go up on the passes. Our public health order prevents non-essential travel, this is the prohibition on folks from other counties traveling to San Juan to ski/snowmobile/snowshoe. These are NON-ESSENTIAL reasons to come to San Juan County, and these prohibitions will be enforced. We have had a couple days of educating/warnings, please don't become the example that demonstrates how serious we are.